

thanks are due to Professor Burmeister, of Buenos Ayres, for promptly furnishing me with sexed and dated specimens of both the South-American species, and to Professor Newton for the loan of Swainson's (supposed) type of *L. phæcephalus* from the Cambridge Museum.

6. A Contribution to the Fauna of Savage Island.

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(Plate XLV.)

Professor Rolleston, F.R.S., has submitted to my examination a small collection of animals made at Niue or Savage Island, a locality rarely touched by vessels, and then for a very short time only. Of the more recent accounts of visitors to the island, I refer especially to the two following:—T. H. Hood, 'Notes of a Cruise in H.M.S. 'Fawn' in the Western Pacific in the year 1862' (Edinb. 1863, 8vo), pp. 9–27; and J. L. Brenchley, 'Jottings during the Cruise of H.M.S. 'Curaçoa' among the South-Sea Islands in 1865' (Lond. 1873, 8vo), pp. 16–35. The island is about 40 miles in circumference, an upraised coral plateau, nearly of an equal elevation, about 250 feet above the level of the sea in its highest part. Vegetation is abundant and varied; and some portions of the island are well wooded. The notes of the two authors mentioned are of a rather general character as far as the fauna is concerned. Hood states (p. 25):—"The fauna and flora are on a limited scale, and similar to those of the larger islands to the north-west. Doves and Pigeons abound; and the large cocoa-nut-eating Crab (*Birgus latro*) is very common and highly esteemed as an article of food by the natives." Brenchley mentions "a great Bat" which he saw flying at a remarkable height, "one indigenous mammifer, a small rodent of a size between a water-rat and a mouse," "a few birds, among them pigeons or doves of a green colour, parrots, a pretty little green bird with white feathers under the tail, a small martin or swallow," "a great number of pretty little lizards, some handsome butterflies, a large species of spider, and a grasshopper, three species of small land-shells."

The isolated position of the island, which is distant four degrees of longitude from the nearest point of the Tonga group, and five of latitude from the Navigator's Islands, renders its fauna and flora objects of particular interest; and I have no doubt that Prof. Rolleston and his correspondent, the Rev. Mr. Lawes, will be encouraged by the result of the examination of the present small collection to obtain a complete set of the indigenous animals and plants.

The only mammal in the collection is a small species of *Pteropus*. It appears to be identical with the species figured by Quoy and Gaimard in the 'Voyage of the Astrolabe' under the name of *Pt. tonganus*. Coloration, size, and habitat seem to point to identity

with this species, the typical specimens of which had been collected in Tongatabu. But the dentition of our example does not agree with the figure given by the French naturalists, which, however, does not seem to be sufficiently accurate for the purpose of specific identification. Peters places *Pt. tonganus* as a doubtful synonym under *Pteropus keraudrenii*. As I shall have before long well authenticated examples of the latter for comparison, I shall, perhaps, be able to throw more light on this problematical species.

Of Reptiles the following were in the collection :—

1. ABLEPHARUS PÆCILOPLEURUS, Wiegmann.

It appears to me that recent authors (more especially Strauch in his monograph of this genus) have confounded two species under the names *A. boutonii* and *A. peronii*.

In the Mauritian species, for which the name *boutonii* must be retained, the posterior frontals are scarcely in contact with each other, the vertical almost touching the præfrontal. In specimens from Australia, the islands of the Pacific, and eastern portion of the Indian Ocean, the posterior frontals form together a broad suture, as has been already represented by Wiegmann and Cocteau. The oldest name for this form is *Ablepharus pæcilopleurus*, Wiegmann. I have been able to convince myself of the constancy of this character, having examined 10 specimens from the Mauritius, and, of the Pacific species, 5 examples from the Sandwich Islands, 2 from Savage Island, 1 from Aneiteum, 4 from North Australia, 16 from Western Australia, and 3 from Timor*.

2. GEHYRA OCEANICA, Less.

3. MABOUIA BAUDINII, D. & B.

This appears to be the most common species of the island, the late Mr. Brenchley having collected numerous examples. Other localities from which we have received this species are New Guinea and San Christoval (Solomon Islands).

* I append here the description of another new species in the British Museum :—

ABLEPHARUS QUINQUETENIATUS.

This species belongs to the division *Cryptoblepharus*, and is allied to *C. pæcilopleurus*, but may be readily recognized by its coloration. The upper and lateral parts are deep black, with five well-defined narrow white lines—one along the median line of the back, one from each superciliary along the side of the back, the outermost from the infraocular through the tympanum to the loin. On the tail the median line has disappeared, and the others are continued as zigzag lines or series of spots. Lower parts greenish.

The eye is surrounded by a complete circle of granules; postfrontals united by a broad suture; central occipital confluent with anterior occipitals. Dorsal scales very broad, in four series. Body surrounded by 24 series of scales; 63 scales in a longitudinal series between chin and vent. Two large præanal scales. Toes very slender.

Two specimens (of the ordinary size of a *C. pæcilopleurus*, and perfectly alike in every respect) were presented to the British Museum by Capt. Parry, and are said to be from the west coast of Africa.

4. MABOUIA LAWESII, sp. n. (Plate XLV. fig. A.)

Supranasals far apart; postfrontals separated by the vertical, which is produced forward into a point touching the præfrontal. Only one anterior occipital. Ear-opening without lobules. Scales very small, the body being surrounded by 55 series of scales, and there being 78 scales in a longitudinal series between the axil of the fore leg and the vent. Nine præanal scales subequal in size. The fore leg, when laid forward, reaches to the nostril. The upper parts are brown, gradually passing into the greenish white of the lower parts. Small dark-brown specks are scattered over the back and sides; but most characteristic are yellowish white spots (each occupying one scale only) with which the back of the body and tail are ornamented. On the trunk they are irregularly distributed, but on the tail they are arranged in more or less regular transverse series.

	in.	lin.
Distance of the snout from the ear	0	9
" " fore leg	1	3
" " vent	3	6
Length of tail	6	0
Total length	9	6
Length of fore leg	1	2

I have named this fine species after the Rev. Mr. Lawes, who has been engaged in improving the condition of the inhabitants of this island since the year 1861.

5. PLATURUS SCHISTORHYNCHUS, sp. n. (Plate XLV. fig. B.)

The rostral shield is transversely divided into two, the upper portion forming an azygos shield between the nasals. Another azygos shield between the posterior frontals. Scales of the front part of the trunk in twenty-one longitudinal series. Ventral shields from 190 to 199. Snout and side of the head black, separated from the black crown of the head by a horseshoe-shaped yellow band which sometimes joins the yellow ring round the neck. Body surrounded by about twenty-two black rings, broader than the interspaces.

I have examined five examples of this species, all agreeing in the peculiarity of the divided rostral combined with the black snout. This snake appears to be common on the shores of Savage Island, as Mr. Lawes states that it is constantly caught and handled by children and that it never attempts to bite. The discovery of this snake is another instance of the local occurrence of many species of sea-snakes. The figure is of the natural size.

A small Scorpion preserved in the same bottles with the Reptiles is, as Mr. Butler informs me, *Ischnurus complanatus* (Koch).